

Amendments to the Specification

On page 3, at line 16, after the heading "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS", please insert the following new paragraph:

The file of this patent contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent with color drawings will be provided by the Patent and Trademark Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 24, as follows:

FIGs. [[12A-I]] 12A-J depict the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) (above) and amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:2) (below) of centriolin.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 26, as follows:

~~FIG. 13A-H~~ FIGs. 13A-N depict the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:3) (above) and amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:4) (below) of pericentrin-B.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 5, as follows:

The invention encompasses nucleic acids that have sequences substantially identical to any one of the nucleic acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs:1 and 3. The nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOs:1 and 3 are shown in FIGs. [[12A-I]] 12A-J and FIGs. [[13A-H]] 13A-N respectively. A nucleic acid sequence that is "substantially identical" to a reference nucleic acid sequence has a sequence that has at least 85% identity to the reference sequence, *e.g.*, the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs:1 and 3. Of course, a substantially identical sequence can have a greater percentage of identity, *e.g.*, 90%, 95%, 96%, or 99% identity.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 27, as follows:

The invention also includes polypeptides that have a sequence that is encoded by, or is substantially identical to the polypeptides encoded by, the nucleic acids of the invention (*e.g.*, polypeptides that are substantially identical to a polypeptide encoded by either SEQ ID NO:1 or 3). The polypeptide sequences of centriolin (SEQ ID NO:2) and pericentrin-B (SEQ ID NO:4) are

shown in FIGs. ~~12A-I and 13A-H~~ 12A-J and 13A-N, respectively. A polypeptide which is "substantially identical" to a given reference polypeptide is a polypeptide having a sequence that has at least 85% identity to the sequence of the given reference polypeptide sequence (e.g., the amino sequence of a polypeptide encoded either SEQ ID NO:1 or 3). Substantially identical polypeptides can also have a higher percentage identity, e.g., 90%, 95%, 98%, or 99%.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 41, line 22, as follows:

Ribozyme molecules designed to catalytically cleave mRNA transcripts of nucleic acids of the invention (e.g., SEQ ID NOs:1 or 3 depicted in FIGs. ~~12A-I and 13A-H~~ 12A-J and 13A-N, respectively) can be used to prevent translation and expression of mRNA of the invention. (see, e.g., PCT Publication WO 90/11364; Saraver *et al.*, *Science*, 247:1222, 1990). While various ribozymes that cleave mRNA at site-specific recognition sequences can be used to destroy mRNAs of the invention, the use of hammerhead ribozymes is preferred. Hammerhead ribozymes cleave mRNAs at locations dictated by flanking regions that form complementary base pairs with the target mRNA. The sole requirement is that the target mRNA have the following sequence of two bases: 5'-UG-3'. The construction and production of hammerhead ribozymes is well known in the art (Haseloff *et al.*, *Nature*, 334:585, 1988). Preferably, the ribozyme is engineered so that the cleavage recognition site is located near the 5' end of the mRNA, i.e., to increase efficiency and minimize the intracellular accumulation of non-functional mRNA transcripts.